

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01413 01 OF 04 210911Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9426

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 4 SEOUL 1413

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS
SUBJECT: STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA: DISSIDENTS
ADDRESS OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF QUOTE OPEN LETTER
ON STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA END
QUOTE TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. BEGIN TEST.

DEAR PRESIDENT CARTER:

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WHO CONTINUE TO HOPE FOR THE BUILDING IN
THIS LAND OF A DEMOCRATIC NATION WHICH RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS,
WISH TO LEND OUR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO YOU IN YOUR BELIEF
THAT POLITICAL LIFE MUST FOLLOW IN THE WAY OF A POLITICAL
PHILOSOPHY WHICH RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS.

HOWEVER, WHEN WE READ THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON
HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA, WE WERE NOT MERELY ASTONISHED, BUT
FELT DEEPLY ANGRY.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE DEGREE OF SUPERFICIALITY OF THE
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01413 01 OF 04 210911Z

STATE DEPARTMENT'S JUDGEMENT ON KOREAN SECURITY IS REVEALED
IN THE OPENING SENTENCE. IT READS, "THE DIVISION OF THE
KOREAN PENINSULA AND THE CONTINUING HOSTILITY OF NORTH
KOREA TOWARD THE SOUTH ARE PERVASIVE FACTORS IN SOUTH
KOREA'S EXISTENCE". NO ONE WOULD DENY SUCH A STATEMENT.
KOREA'S SECURITY IS A LIFE OR DEATH MATTER FOR THE KOREAN
PEOPLE, AND WHO WOULD DARE TO DENY THAT IT CANNOT BE

TREATED LIGHTLY IN RELATION ALSO TO THE POLITICAL STABILITY OF THE NORTHEAST ASIAN REGION? YET IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT THIS REPORT HAS BEEN WRITTEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A CONCERN FOR MILITARY SECURITY. THIS REPORT NOT ONLY DISREGARDS THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, IT EVEN OVERLOOKS THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL STABILITY.

WHEN WAS IT THAT THE DICTATORIAL REGIME OF SOUTH VIETNAM, NOT HAVING ESTABLISHED DEMOCRATIC POLITICS WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND PROTECTING A SMALL MINORITY OF ITS OFFICIALS, EVEN WITH THE MILITARY SUPPORT OF A GREAT POWER LIKE THE UNITED STATES, TOPPLED SUDDENLY ONE DAY AND WAS GONE? HAVE THE UNITED STATES STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FORGOTTEN IT SO SOON?

WE CONSIDER KOREA'S MILITARY SECURITY TO BE A VERY SERIOUS MATTER. AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT KOREA'S POLITICAL STABILITY. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL STABILITY WILL BECOME POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED AND A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, ALLOWING THE FULL EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT UNTIL SUCH A TIME, MILITARY STRENGTH, NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL, WILL BECOME MERELY A POWER FOR SELF-DESTRUCTION.

WE DO NOT WANT KOREA TO BECOME A "SECOND VIETNAM".
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PAGE 03 SEOUL 01413 01 OF 04 210911Z

WITHOUT BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP, BUT RATHER CONFRONTED WITH THE DILEMMA OF CHOOSING BETWEEN TWO DICTATORSHIPS, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE KOREAN, OUR PEOPLE MIGHT NOT MAKE THE SAME CHOICE AS THE VIETNAMESE.

BECAUSE SECURITY HAS BEEN VIEWED IN THIS WAY WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE DIMENSION OF A DEMOCRATIC IDEAL OR SYSTEM AND ONLY AS A MATTER OF MILITARY SECURITY, THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT'S JUDGEMENT ON KOREAN SECURITY CANNOT BUT BE SUPERFICIAL, AND FURTHERMORE, IT HAS BECOME AN ERRONEOUS AND EVEN PREJUDICED JUDGEMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT YOU CERTAINLY MUST BE AWARE THAT ANY POLICY WHICH IS THUS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT ROOTED IN PREJUDICE WILL IN THE END ONLY INVITE FAILURE.

THE REPORT STATES THAT THE PRESENT YUSHIN CONSTITUTION DID NOT REDUCE, BUT ANNIHILATED THE INFLUENCE AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ONE THIRD OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS ARE FILLED BY DIRECT APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT. OF THE OTHER TWO-THIRDS WHICH ARE ELECTED,

UNDER THE DECEPTIVE REGULATIONS OF THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION, TWO PEOPLE CAN BE ELECTED IN THE SAME ELECTORAL DISTRICT, SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT PARTY CAN ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION HOLD ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE SEATS. CAN SUCH A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REFLECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE? IN THE 1971 ELECTION, MR. KIM DAE JUNG RECEIVED 46 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE. SHOULD NOT THIS 46 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE'S WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE LAW-MAKING AND IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS IN GENERAL? IN THE 1971 ELECTION, MR. PARK CHUNG HEE WAS ANNOUNCED TO HAVE RECEIVED 54 PERCENT OF THE VOTES, BUT IN THE 1973 ELECTION HE RECEIVED 99 PERCENT SUPPORT THROUGH THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR UNIFICATION. HIS WILL HAS BEEN EQUATED WITH THE PEOPLE'S WILL. THUS THE DICTATORSHIP IS LEGALLY SANCTIONED. TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 SEOUL 01413 01 OF 04 210911Z

THE EXTENT THAT THIS CONSTITUTION IS VALID, THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY IN KOREA IN SPITE OF THIS, THE REPORT GIVES THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT THE FUNCTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS RESTORED AND THAT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IS BEING ADEQUATELY COMMUNICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR USE TO UNDERSTAND WHY A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS ADEQUATE COMMUNICATION WITH THE PEOPLE HAS TO ABOLISH FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01413 02 OF 04 210921Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9427

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 4 SEOUL 1413

THE REPORT GOES ON IN THE INTRODUCTION, "SOUTH KOREA

HAS EMERGED AS A MIDDLELEVEL ECONOMIC POWER FOLLOWING SEVERAL YEARS OF IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH". THIS PHRASING EVEN GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE INTERESTS OF FOREIGN INVESTORS IN KOREA. THERE IS NO ONE HERE IN KOREA PREPARED TO GIVE THIS SORT OF PRAISE EXCEPT FOR SOME EXPORT FIRMS AND THE FOREIGN INVESTORS. IN RELATION TO THE LABOR SITUATION IN KOREA, THE REPORT SAYS, "HOWEVER, LOW WAGES AND LONG WORKING HOURS REMAIN CONTINUING PROBLEMS PARTICULARLY AMONG SMALLER, MARGINAL COMPANIES". EVEN THE SMALLER INDUSTRIES OPERATING WITH LOCAL CAPITAL, HOWEVER, ARE STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE UNDER ADVERSE CONDITIONS OF BORROWED CAPITAL OR THE HEAVY PRESSURE OF COMPETITIVE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. DESPITE THIS SITUATION, THE REPORT MAKES THE SMALLER INDUSTRIES BEAR THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WRONGDOING WHILE PRAISING THE LARGE COMPANIES. THE REPORT PRAISES "THE SUCCESS OF THE KOREANS IN MAINTAINING A RELATIVELY EGALITARIAN PATTERN OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION". BY CITING IN THE REPORT THAT "TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IS PERMITTED, BUT UNIONS MAY NOT STRIKE", THE FACT OF KOREA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH HAVING COME ABOUT THROUGH THE EXPLOITATION OF CHEAP LABOR IS RECOGNIZED, BUT THIS IS IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO THE CLAIM OF A RELATIVELY EQUAL PATTERN OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01413 02 OF 04 210921Z

REPORT PRE-SUPPOSES THAT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE, THE CORNERSTONE OF SUCH SUPPORT BEING THE ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT. HOW CAN THE PEOPLE SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THE INCOME LEVEL OF THE ORDINARY CITIZENS OF KOREA IS RISING AT A RATE WHICH CANNOT POSSIBLY KEEP PACE WITH THE RISE IN CONSUMER PRICES, AND THE RISE IN THE GNP DOES NOT BEGIN TO MATCH THE HEAVY TAX BURDEN IMPOSED UPON THE PEOPLE?

AGAIN, THIS REPORT, BY SAYING, "THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONDUCTED AN INTENSE CAMPAIGN WHICH VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED LOW-LEVEL CORRUPTION AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED IT AT THE HIGHER LEVELS", IS CLOSING ITS EYES TO THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHILE PATRONISING A REGIME WHICH IS TRAMPLING HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER FOOT. ARE THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS REALLY UNAWARE OF THE VIRTUALLY UNPUNISHED CRIMES PERPETUATED HERE WHICH HAVE ALREADY AROUSED WORLD CONCERN? DO THESE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TRULY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE FACT OF THE IMPRISONMENT NOW BEING SUFFERED EVEN BY THE MOTHER OF CHUN T'AE-IL, THE YOUNG MAN WHO IMMOLATED HIMSELF IN HIS FIGHT IN BEHALF OF THE WEAK YOUNG WOMEN WORKERS WHO WERE ADVOCATING THEIR OWN RIGHTS AS WORKERS? OR ARE THEY CLOSING THEIR EYES ON BEHALF OF SOMEONE?

THE REPORT ALSO READS, "AS 1977 DREW TO A CLOSE, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ON DECEMBER 25 AND ON DECEMBER 31. ONE WELL-KNOWN PRISONER, KIM TAE-CHUNG (SIC. KIM DAE JUNG), WAS REMOVED FROM PRISON TO HOSPITAL". BY SAYING THIS, THE REPORT GIVES THE FALSE IMPRESSIONS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA MAY HAVE BEEN RESTORED. AT PRESENT WE ARE UNDER A "SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE" AND COULD BE IMPRISONED AGAIN

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 01413 02 OF 04 210921Z

AT ANY TIME, AND ARE LIVING UNDER INTENSIVE SURVEILLANCE. KIM DAE JUNG IS NOW UNDER MORE RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS THAN HE WAS WHILE ACTUALLY IN PRISON. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT, REDUCED TO STRUGGLING TO KEEP BODY AND SOUL TOGETHER, DURING THESE 17 YEARS UNDER THE PARK REGIME? DO YOU KNOW OF THE MANY STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM THEIR SCHOOLS AND HAD THEIR LIVES SQUANDERED? DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY STUDENTS EVEN NOW ARE STRUGGLING FOR THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THIS COUNTRY, RISKING SUCH DANGER? DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY JOURNALISTS AND PROFESSORS FIGHT A LONELY BATTLE AFTER HAVING LOST THEIR JOBS? IF UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES YOU BELIEVE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN RESTORED THROUGH THE RELEASE OF A FEW OF US WHO WERE IN PRISON, THEN WE CANNOT HELP BUT HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE PERCEPTIVENESS OF THE OFFICERS IN THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT.

BUT THE POINT IN THIS REPORT WHICH AROUSES OUR DEEPEST ANGER IS THE WAY IN WHICH THE FACT OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO RELEASE MANY PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IS OBSCURED BY VERBAL SMOKESCREEN TACTICS, SHOWING THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S ASSENT TO THIS SITUATION. WE HAD HOPED THAT OUR RELEASE WOULD SIGNAL THE RELEASE OF OTHER PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND POLITICAL PRISONERS STILL SUFFERING UNJUSTLY, BUT THESE EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN SHATTERED. WE WOULD PREFER TO RETURN TO PRISON IF THAT WOULD SERVE TO RESTORE A MEASURE OF DIGNITY TO OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

THE EXTENT OF THE ONE-SIDED PREJUDICE OF THIS REPORT IS REVEALED BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT IN ITS REFERENCE TO THE SO-CALLED "PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY" AND THE EXECUTION OF EIGHT PERSONS RELATED TO IT. IT IS REPORTED, "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCLUDED THAT THE CHARGES... WERE 'FABRICATED'...THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER HAD

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PAGE 04 SEOUL 01413 02 OF 04 210921Z

SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO MAKE AN INDEPENDENT JUDGEMENT ON THE MERITS OF THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCLUSIONS". IF THIS IS THE CASE, THEN IS THIS TO SAY THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT POSSESSES SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO BELIEVE THAT THESE PEOPLE COMMITTED CRIMES SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT THEIR EXECUTION? IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH EVIDENCE ARE NOT SUCH WORDS AS THESE IN THE REPORT AN ADMISSION THAT THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT, WITHOUT ANY GROUNDS,

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01413 03 OF 04 210936Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9428

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 3 OF 4 SEOUL 1413

HAS KNOWINGLY COME TO THE DEFENSE OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, IN SPITE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A HEINOUS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS? WHILE GOING SO FAR AS TO DENY THE CONCLUSIONS UPON THIS CASE OF A DISINTERESTED PARTY SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THIS REPORT EVEN ADOPTS A PARTISAN INTEREST IN DEFENDING THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S VIEWPOINT, THUS GIVING THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT IT HAS PRESENTED A DISTORTED PICTURE.

THE WORDING OF THE REPORT IN SAYING THAT THERE ARE FEWER THAN 150 POLITICAL PRISONERS AS OF LATE DECEMBER 1977 REVEALS AN EFFORT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IS NOT VERY SERIOUS. BESIDES VIOLATORS OF EM-9, THERE ARE OTHER PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND POLITICAL PRISONERS CONFINED UNJUSTLY ON OTHER CHARGES. WE CANNOT PASS OVER THIS WITHOUT MENTION OF THE FACT THAT, EVEN NOW THE SUPPOSED LAST STRONGHOLD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE COURTS, ARE VIOLATING THE RIGHTS OF MANY STUDENTS AND BELIEVERS IN DEMOCRACY

THROUGH UNJUST VERDICTS. IN SPITE OF THESE FACTS THE REPORT MAKES AN EFFORT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS LITTLE TORTURE. IT SAYS, "WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT TORTURE IS NOW REGULARLY EMPLOYED IN SOUTH KOREA". WHAT DICTATORIAL STATE EVER PRACTICED TORTURE "REGULARLY"? LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01413 03 OF 04 210936Z

THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT IN THE PARK REGIME TORTURE HAS BEEN PRACTICED IRREGULARLY IN 1977 AND 1978.

THE REPORT STATES THAT "RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES ARE GIVEN WIDE LATITUDE". BY SAYING THIS, THE REPORT GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT FULL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS GUARANTEED, BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE FACTS. THE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO LIMIT THE SCOPE OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES TO THE BOUNDARY OF THE CHURCH, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE SPHERE OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MUST EXTEND TO THE WHOLE OF SOCIAL LIFE. IN PARTICULAR, WE CANNOT ABANDON OUR PROPHETIC TASK OF FIGHTING AGAINST SOCIAL IRREGULARITIES, INJUSTICES AND CORRUPTION. WE CANNOT WITHHOLD ACTIONS OF LOVE TO SAFEGUARD AND INCREASE HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRAMPLED BY THE POWERFUL. WE CANNOT RETREAT EVEN ONE STEP IN THIS FIGHT, BECAUSE CENSURE OF INJUSTICE AND CORRUPTION, AND CRITICISMS OF POLITICAL POWER AND CAPITALISTS IS THE WAY OF LOVE. THE GOVERNMENT CALLS THESE ACTS OF LOVE ANTI-GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, AND USES EMERGENCY MEASURES TO CONTROL THEM. WE CANNOT HELP BUT QUESTION THE RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO COME TO THE DEFENSE OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS TRIED TO LIMIT THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES OF ITS PEOPLE IN SUCH A WAY.

WHEN THIS REPORT CITES COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PARK TONG-SUN CASE AS THOUGH TO SHOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN RESTORATION OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN KOREA, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF A DELIBERATE DISTORTION OF THE FACTS IN ORDER TO GIVE A FALSE IMPRESSION. WHEN WE SPEAK OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WE UNDERSTAND THAT TO MEAN FREEDOM TO REPORT EVENTS ACCURATELY AND THE FREEDOM TO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT. IT DOES SEEM TO SOME EXTENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 01413 03 OF 04 210936Z

THAT KOREAN NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, RADIO AND TELEVISION, BROADCASTING HAVE SOME FREEDOM TO REPORT THE FACTS. BUT KOREA'S MEDIA ARE NOT ABLE TO REPORT BEYOND THE NARROW SCOPE SPECIFIED BY THE GOVERNMENT, NOR BEYOND THE LIMITS

ALLOWED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE COLLEGE CAMPUSES SHOULD SERVE AS THE DELIVERY ROOM FOR THE CREATIVE GROWTH OF THE NATION'S CULTURE, BUT THEY ARE INSTEAD BEING TURNED INTO MILITARY BARRACKS. THE PROFESSORS ARE FORCED TO ACT AS DETECTIVES SPYING ON THE STUDENTS. THE STUDENTS, WITH THEIR CRITICAL JUDGEMENT AND CREATIVITY CRUSHED, ARE UNDERGOING A BRAIN-WASHING INTENDED TO TURN THEM INTO FUNCTIONAL COGS. THE WISDOM AND CREATIVITY OF THE PEOPLE ARE WITHERING, AND PEOPLE WHO DO NOTHING BUT OBEY DIRECTIONS FROM ABOVE ARE BEING PRODUCED.

WE ARE RESOLVED THAT WE SHALL PUT OUR VERY LIVES ON THE LINE IF NEED BE IN ORDER TO STAND FOR THE RECOVERY OF RELIGIOUS, PRESS, AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM WHICH CAN SERVE TO MAKE KOREA DEMOCRATIC, IF THIS RESOLVE FOR FREEDOM'S RECOVERY FAILS, THEN WE ASK THAT YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT HUMAN RIGHTS DID NOT EXIST IN KOREA.

IN CONCLUSION WE WISH TO SPEAK OF THE PARK TONGSUN CASE IN RELATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS. WHAT IS THE PARK TONGSUN CASE? WHAT IS IT BUT THE RESULT OF EXAMPLES OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BECOMING KNOWN IN THE UNITED STATES, OF THE PROTEST OF CONSCIENCE ECHOING ABROAD, COMBINED WITH THE DETERIORATION OF AMERICAN FEELING TOWARD THE PARK REGIME, A CASE NOW SWIRLING ABOUT THE VARIOUS REPORTS TRYING TO SHIFT THE BLAME? WHY IS THE PRESENT REGIME SO FRANTICALLY TRYING TO PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ONLY PARK TONGSUN? THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THE PRESENT REGIME PLACES A HIGH VALUE UPON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ONLY THOSE WHO ARE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 SEOUL 01413 03 OF 04 210936Z

SERVICE TO ITS OWN SECURITY. THIS ALSO MEANS THAT THE REGIME PAYS NO ATTENTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ORDINARY CITIZEN.

WE BELIEVE THAT A REPORT LIKE THIS, WHICH COMPLETELY DEFENDS THE POSITION OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT, SHOULD NOT BE CALLED A "REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS", BUT RATHER A "DEFENSE OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT", A GOVERNMENT WHICH RIDES ROUGHSHOD OVER THE RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS.

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01413 04 OF 04 210948Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 4 OF 4 SEOUL 1413

WE DEEPLY LOVE THE 50 MILLION PEOPLE OF THIS DIVIDED
LAND WHO ARE UNABLE TO SPEAK OUT ON BEHALF OF THEIR
OWN HUMAN RIGHTS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE WAY TO LOVE
OUR PEOPLE IS THAT WHICH WE STATED IN OUR "DECLARATION
FOR THE DEMOCRATIC SALVATION OF THE NATION". IN THE
CONCLUSION IT READS, "AS A UNITED PEOPLE, AS A PEACEFUL
PEOPLE WITH JUSTICE MADE A REALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
GUARANTEED, WE SHALL LIVE CONFIDENTLY IN INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY WITH OUR SHOULDERS SQUARED."

THE PRESENT SITUATION IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS ARE CRUELLY
TRAMPLED UPON THROUGH DECEPTIVE MEANS SHOW THAT THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS NOT GOING THE WAY OF DEMOCRACY,
NOR IS IT GOING IN A WAY TO OVERCOME THE COMMUNIST
SYSTEM.

FINALLY, WITH OUR EYES ON THE SITUATION, WE WOULD END
THIS OPEN LETTER WITH A QUOTATION FROM THE "NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC PRESS DECLARATION" ISSUED LAST DECEMBER 30TH
BY THE DONGA AND CHOSUN ILBO COMMITTEE FOR THE STRUGGLE
TO PROTECT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS:

"FREEDOM FOR THE PEOPLE, UNIFICATION FOR THE NATION:
THESE ARE THE UNDENIABLY URGENT NEEDS OF OUR TIME AND
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01413 04 OF 04 210948Z

THE IRRESISTIBLE DIRECTION OF OUR HISTORY."

NO ONE CAN DESTROY THIS LOVE.

WE BELIEVE THAT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING EIGHT CONDITIONS
ARE MET, HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY WILL NOT

BE SAFEGUARDED:

1. FIRST OF ALL, EMERGENCY MEASURE #9 MUST BE RESCINDED.
2. ALL PEOPLE IMPRISONED UNJUSTLY MUST BE RELEASED.
3. EXPELLED STUDENTS MUST BE RE-DMITTED, AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN UNJUSTLY DISCHARGED FROM THEIR JOBS, INCLUDING PROFESSORS AND JOURNALISTS, MUST BE REINSTATED.
4. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MUST BE RESTORED.
5. SURVEILLANCE OF THE PEOPLE BY THE KCIA MUST BE STOPPED.
6. FORCED BRAINWASHING OF THE NATION, TURNING IT INTO A MILITARY CAMP, THROUGH THE "NEW VILLAGE MOVEMENT" AND "NATIONAL DEFENSE EXERCISES", MUST BE STOPPED.
7. EXPLOITATION OF THE PEOPLE, BOUND UP WITH FOREIGN CAPITAL, MUST STOP, AND LABORERS AND FARMERS MUST BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE INDEPENDENT DECISIONS.
8. THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION MUST BE REPEALED.

WHILE YOU CONTINUE IN YOUR POLITICAL LIFE AS ONE
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PAGE 03 SEOUL 01413 04 OF 04 210948Z

COMMITTED TO POLITICS WHICH GUARANTEE HUMAN RIGHTS,
WE JOIN IN ASKING GOD'S BLESSING UPON YOU.

(SIGNED)

YUN PO-SON
HAM SOK-HON
AN PYONG-MU
MUN TONG-HWAN
YI HAE-TONG
YI T'AE-YONG
CHONG IL-HYONG
SO NAM-TONG
HAM SE-UNG
SIN HYON-PONG
MUN CHONG-HYON
CHANG TOK-P'IL
KIM SUNG-HUN
YI U-CHONG
YUN PAN-UNG
MUN IK-HWAN

P.S. THE ANCESTRAL HOME OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT,
MR. YUN PO SON, (ONE OF THE SIGNERS OF THIS OPEN LETTER),
WHICH IS THE ONLY TRADITIONAL ARISTOCRATIC KOREAN HOME
STILL PRESERVED AS A PRIVATE HOME IN SEOUL, AND WHICH
MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER SHOULD BE PRESERVED AS PART OF OUR
CULTURAL ERITAGE, HAS RECENTLY HAD THE NATIONAL TAX
ON IT ARBITRARILY AND ILLEGALLY RAISED FROM APPROXIMATELY
\$1,000.00 (U.S. \$ EQUIVALENT) A YEAR TO OVER \$82,000.00.
OVER AND ABOVE THIS, CITY TAX COULD ALSO BE LEVIED.
THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A TYPE OF POLITICAL REPRISAL. IF
THE FORMER PRESIDENT IS TREATED IN SUCH A MANNER, HOW
MUCH MORE IS THE ORDINARY CITIZEN OPEN TO ILLEGAL AND
UNFAIR TREATMENT?

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PAGE 04 SEOUL 01413 04 OF 04 210948Z

THIS LETTER WAS MADE PUBLIC BEFORE SENDING IT TO YOU
BECAUSE WE ARE UNDER CONSTANT DANGER OF DETECTION,
AFTER WHICH IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR IT TO BE MADE
KNOWN INSIDE KOREA. PROFESSOR LEE MOON YOUNG, WHO
READ IT IN AN OPEN MEETING ON FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 17,
WAS FORCIBLY TAKEN BY POLICE IN SPITE OF HIS DEMAND TO
SEE AN ARREST WARRENT ON SATURDAY EVENING, AND IS STILL
IN CUSTODY AS OF FEBRUARY 20TH. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE LETTER HAS BEEN READ AT AT LEAST
ONE CHURCH SERVICE AND HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FOREIGN
CORRESPONDENTS, IT HAS RECEIVED NO ATTENTION IN LOCAL
MEDIA.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780232/aaaabayy.tel
Line Count: 583
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b2d3b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
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Reference: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3534728
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA: DISSIDENTS ADDRESS OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2d3b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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